

City of Santa Barbara

SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE DESIGN GUIDELINES WORKSHEET

ADD	ADDRESS: MST2		200	
			YES	NO
SITE	E PLANNING AND STRUCTURE PLACEMENT GUIDELINES			
1.	Environmental Setting : Consider the environmental setting and appropriate landscaping in the site planning and structure placement process.			
1.1	Are the structures and the site plan integrated with the environmental setting?	(P)		
1.2	Does the project comply with landscape standards, codes and guidelines such as the SFDB Landscape Guidelines, the Landscape Standards for Water Conservation (including no more than 20% landscaping in high water use) and the Storm Water Management Program?	(P)		
2.	Neighborhood Context : Integrate structures and site plan with the neighborhood.			
	Are the structures and site plan integrated with the neighborhood?			
3.	Solar Design : Design to maximize options for passive and active solar heating and cooling.			
	Are structures designed to maximize options for passive and active sola heating and cooling?	r (P)		
4.	Permeability: Maximize permeable areas.			
4.1	Is stormwater and non-stormwater runoff from the site to the street or neighboring properties minimized?	(P)		
4.2	Does site design maximize water permeability by reducing paved areas, using permeable paving materials and preserving open space drainage ways when feasible?	(P)		
4.3	Are large continuous paved areas avoided?	(P)		
Key (P): C	heck at preliminary review stage			

			YES	NO
4.4	Has the design considered using permeable paving materials such as ungrouted brick pavers or interlocking paving systems in which grass can be grown?	(P)		
4.5	Has the design considered conveying stormwater from building roofs to an on-site drainage system, such as French drains, detention basins or bioswales, or into planted areas?	(P)		
4.6	Are driveway and curb-cut widths minimized?	(P)		
4.7	Is paving in the front yard limited to the width required for access to a garage or other required parking spaces?	(P)		
4.8	Has the design considered using a "ribbon driveway" to minimize pavement and add permeability?	(P)		
5.	Parking Aesthetics: Minimize parking aesthetic impacts along the street.			
5.1	Has the design considered using textured/patterned driveways to complement architecture and minimize driveway visual impacts?	(P)		
5.2	For new construction, are garages not the predominant feature of the front elevation?			
5.3	Is the car located behind the main residence, where feasible?			
5.4	For multi-story buildings, are garage(s) located on the ground floor?			
5.5	On flat lots, is underground parking avoided or located away from the street front?			
5.6	Are existing covered parking structures used?			
5.7	For any uncovered parking: screened from the street and neighbors, behind the main house structure if possible and any screening gates compatible with the neighborhood?			
5.8	Is any uncovered parking in front of a house screened from the street by topography, structures or landscaping?			
5.9	Is any uncovered parking delineated with plant or hardscape landscaping?			
5.10	Is there appropriate landscape planting to ensure adequate shading of the space?	(P)		
5.11	On flat sites, is new paving for uncovered spaces permeable?	(F)		
	eck at preliminary review stage			

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			YES	NO
5.12	Are garages proposed as an aesthetic solution superior to carports?	(P)		
5.13	Is there no construction over carports?	(P)		
5.14	Are any carports designed with high quality materials, compatible with the main structure? Are roofing design, colors, materials and supporting posts similar to the main house?	(F)		
5.15	Is a sloped carport roof proposed if a sloped roof is compatible with the main house?	(P)		
5.16	Support posts for a carport should appear substantial and be decoratively finished in a style matching the main residence. Thin metal poles are not an acceptable solution for a carport design.	(F)		
5.17	Do pedestrian pathways connect the parking area with the main residence, especially if there is a carport proposed?	(P)		
5.18	If carports are readily publicly visible, are landscape planting areas located adjacent to carports?	(P)		
5.19	Where there is no garage on a property, at least 200 cubic feet of aesthetically integrated lockable exterior storage should be provided.	(P)		
COM	PATIBILITY GUIDELINES			
6.	Neighborhood : Design a project to be compatible with the immediate neighborhood, and carefully consider the neighborhood study area for a project.			
	Is the project compatible with the immediate neighborhood and the neighborhood study area?	(F)		
7.	Volume, Bulk, Massing and Scale: Design structures to be compatible with neighboring houses in terms of volume, size, massing, scale and bulk.			
	Are the structures compatible with neighboring houses in terms of volume, size, massing, scale and bulk?			

<u>Key</u>(P): Check at preliminary review stage(F): Check at final review stage

				YES	NO
8.		to Lot Area Ratio (FAR): Strive for a project which falls in the than 85% of maximum FAR" range for the project lot size.			
8.1	Is the	e project less than 85% of the maximum FAR for the project lot size?			
8.2		e project is greater than 85% of the maximum FAR for the project lot is the project compatible with the 20 closest homes?			
8.3	Is the	e project under the maximum FAR?			
	If the	e answer to 3.3 is "no," does the project meet the following findings?			
	a)	Does the lot exhibit a physical condition (such as the location, surroundings, topography or the size of the lot relative to the other lots in the neighborhood) that does not generally exist on the other lots in the neighborhood?	(P)		
	b)	Does the physical condition of the lot allow the project to be compatible with existing development within the neighborhood that complies with the net floor area standard?	(P)		
9.	Heigh	t: Design structure heights to be compatible with the neighborhood.			
9.1	Is bu lot a	ilding height in proportion to the style and size of the house and the rea?			
9.2	Have avoid	e excessive building heights (25' in most neighborhoods) been ded?			
9.3		e tall plate heights (e.g., over 10') that unnecessarily add to the volume e structure been avoided?			
9.4	indic	re appropriate to the architectural style, do architectural features ate where a first story ends and a second story begins when the ture is viewed from the street?			
9.5	Base	ment and cellar height above grade			
	a)	Is the vertical distance from grade to the ceiling four feet (4') or less for the entire circumference of the exterior walls of a basement or cellar?			
	b)	Is the vertical distance from grade to the ceiling four feet (4') or less for at least one-half of the circumference of the exterior walls of a basement or cellar?			
<u>Key</u> (P): Cl	neck at pre	eliminary review stage			

			YES	NO
9.6	Where appropriate, are some portions of the roof lowered to the gutter or eave line of the first-story roof to reduce the apparent volume of the building?			
10.	Façade Articulation : Use façade articulation to create appropriate scale and add visual interest.			
10.1	Where appropriate to the architectural style, are there steps or offsets extending to grade where dimensions of the dwelling would otherwise appear too long?			
10.2	Do projected or recessed architectural details (e.g., bays and windows) and changes in building materials or color visually break up buildings or walls?	(P)		
10.3	Where appropriate to the design, does the height of building segments vary?			
10.4	Are all sides of the dwelling articulated in a way that is appropriate to the architectural style?			
11.	Architectural Style : Choose a style compatible with the surrounding neighborhood and use architectural features to create a consistent architectural style.			
11.1	Do architectural features (e.g., dormers, bay windows, porches, balconies, entrance projections) enhance the architectural form and style of the house?			
11.2	Is the architectural style (as expressed through building materials, colors, design, exterior treatment, roof articulation and overall design in construction) of good quality and durable exterior materials?			
12.	Openings : Use openings such as doors and windows in a manner compatible with the neighborhood.			
12.1	In an addition, are doors and windows the same shape and size or compatible with the dominant door and window neighborhood patterns, including proportions, materials and detailing?	(F)		
12.2	Does the pattern of windows and doors reflect the scale and patterns in the neighborhood?			
12.3	Are one or more windows visible from the street on the portion of the dwelling facing the front yard?			
<u>Key</u> (P): Ch	eck at preliminary review stage			

			YES	NO
13.	Entries : Main entries should be visible from the street and contribute towards a friendly neighborhood experience.			
13.1	Are there landscaped pathways to the main entry rather than only a connection to the front entry directly from a driveway?	(P)		
13.2	Are front entries not blocked with walls, screens, fences or tall hedges?	(P)		
13.3	Are entries designed in proportion to the scale of the dwelling?	(F)		
13.4	In infill areas, are entrances no taller than one story?	(F)		
14.	Roof Design : Carefully plan roof forms on a home for a well-designed structure compatible with the neighborhood.			
14.1	Is the primary roof form compatible with the existing neighborhood?			
14.2	Is there an appropriate number of roof forms in order to reduce the dwelling's apparent mass and scale and provide visual interest?			
14.3	Are additional roof forms architecturally compatible with the primary roof form's slope and material?			
14.4	Is the roof suitable for an efficient and aesthetically integrated solar energy system?			
14.5	Is mechanical equipment screened?	(F)		
14.6 – 14.10	Are skylight guidelines 14.6 through 14.10 met (SFRDG, pg. 33-C)?			
15.	Roof Materials : Roofing material and color should be consistent with the building architectural style. Eave closures, a.k.a. bird stops, if any are proposed, shall be mortared with natural cement.			
	Is roofing material and color consistent with the building architectural style?			
16.	Exterior Materials and Colors : Exterior materials and colors should complement the style of the house and neighborhood, as well as blend with surrounding natural features when viewed from a distance.			
16.1	Does the building color complement architectural details and blend with the surrounding neighborhood?	(F)		
<u>Key</u>				

⁽P): Check at preliminary review stage (F): Check at final review stage

			YES	NO
16.2	Is ornamentation applied in a way that is consistent with the style of the dwelling and avoids making the dwelling appear overly decorated?	(P/F)		
16.3	Have reflective or metallic materials on roofs, walls and windows been avoided?	(F)		
16.4	Are darker materials and colors used to reduce the apparent volume of the building?	(F)		
16.5	If the project is in the Hillside Design District, are there natural earth tone colors that blend with the surrounding topography?	(F)		
16.6	Does stucco have a smooth, undulating, troweled finish?	(F)		
16.7	Are glass materials consistent with the architectural style of the structure, not highly visible and situated to avoid glare problems?	(F)		
16.8	Are paved areas broken up with colored or textured materials?	(P)		
16.9	Are large expanses of building walls, including retaining walls, avoided?			
17.	Fences, Walls and Hedges: Integrate fences, walls and hedges with structures and setting.			
17.1	Are fence, hedge and wall heights minimized?			
17.2	Are horizontal lines and proportion used to reduce the perception of height and bulk?			
17.3	Is an open rather than solid fence design used to reduce visual and structural bulk?	(F)		
17.4	Are earth tone colors and native, natural materials used?	(F)		
17.5	Is vegetation and landscaping integrated with fence and wall design?	(F)		
17.6	Are chain link fences either avoided or given a dark color such as dark green or black and softened with landscaping?	(F)		
18.	Partial Basements. Carefully design partial basements so that they do not inordinately create a bulky appearance, or contribute to an inappropriate apparent height.			

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		YES	NO
18.1	If the project is on a corner or especially visible hillside area lot, or the basement exceeds 25% of house size, are any daylight basements reduced, placed underground or hidden from view if necessary to achieve an appropriate project size, bulk and scale?		
18.2	Are the following discouraged basement design techniques avoided: excessive fill placement, excessive retaining walls placement, elevating natural grades around a structure's perimeter to create basement floor areas?		
18.3	Are any retaining walls used to create driveways or walkout basements reasonable, i.e. no excessive retaining wall placement, especially with regards to Apparent Height Guideline 29 and Grading for Driveways Guideline 31?		
TWO-	STORY DESIGN CONCEPTS		
19.	Does the building avoid crowding or overwhelming neighboring residences?		
20.	Does the design avoid a "vertical canyon effect" between homes?		
21.	Are areas of maximum height minimized?		
22.	Does the height of building elements vary?		
23.	Do roof lines vary?		
24.	Are taller portions of structures set back from the lot lines to reduce the appearance of height?		
25.	Are architectural features used to break up unacceptable bulk?		
26.	Is the home less than three stories tall if in an infill neighborhood?		
HILLS	SIDE HOUSING DESIGN GUIDELINES		
27.	Natural Surroundings: Blend the house into its natural surroundings.		
27.1	Has stepping the building up or down the hill been balanced with avoiding excessive spill down?		
27.2	Has setting the building into the hillside been balanced with minimizing grading?		
Key (P): Che	ck at preliminary review stage		

			YES	NO
27.3	Have large continuous paved areas been avoided or broken up using colored or textured materials?	(P)		
27.4	Have natural earth tone colors that blend with the surrounding topography and vegetation been used?	(F)		
27.5	Does the project fit in with hillside topography and background?			
27.6	Does the project avoid interrupting natural ridgelines and skylines?			
27.7	Is landscaping used to blend the structure with the environment?	(P)		
27.8	Are materials and colors used to reduce the apparent bulk?	(F)		
27.9	Are exposed foundations and undersides of structures minimized?			
27.10	Are large downhill cantilevers and tall support columns for overhanging areas avoided?			
27.11	Does the project follow the City's High Fire Hazard Landscape Standards and follow the SFRD Guidelines, Part II: Landscaping 5.3 High Fire Hazard Landscape Design?	(P)		
28.	Height and Proportions : Building height should be in proportion to the style and size of the house and to the lot area.			
28.1	Are higher portions of the structure set back to reduce the appearance of height?			
28.2	Does the height of building elements vary?			
28.3	Are areas of maximum height minimized?			
28.4	On hillsides, are designs intended for flat lots avoided?			
29.	Apparent Height : Structures should have a modest "apparent height" (lowest point of contact with grade to highest point of building dimension).			
29.1	Does the home have an apparent height of less than 30 feet?			
29.2	If the slope is less than 25%, does the home have a height of less than 25 feet?			
29.3	Do retaining walls avoid increasing a structure's apparent height?			
<u>Key</u>				

⁽P): Check at preliminary review stage (F): Check at final review stage

			YES	NO
29.4	Does the home have a total run of less than 60' in horizontal distance for combined steps?			
29.5	Is the spilldown limited on moderately steep or gently sloping lots?			
30.	Grading : Limit the amount of grading to avoid erosion, visual impacts and other impacts.			
30.1	Does the project minimize grading both underneath the main building and on the entire site?	(P)		
30.2	Are slopes greater than 30% preserved by avoiding grading and clearing?			
30.3	Is visual scarring avoided?			
30.4	Are retaining walls incorporated under the house?			
30.5	Has the visual impact of grading been minimized by doing most of the cut under the buildings?			
30.6	Are cut and fill balanced on site, while allowing for any export needed to preserve the natural topography?			
30.7	If excess materials are used elsewhere on the site, will the grading result in minimum changes to the natural contours and not be distinguished from surroundings within a short period of time?			
30.8	Do man-made contours mimic natural contours?	(P)		
30.9	Has hiding downhill foundations with fill been avoided?	(P)		
31.	Grading for Driveways : Minimize and mitigate visual effects of grading for driveway purposes.			
31.1	Is the house set on the site so that the length of the driveway is minimized?			
31.2	Has the visibility of driveway cuts been minimized?	(P)		
31.3	Have planting, wall materials and colors been used to minimize visual effects of driveway cuts?	(F)		
31.4	Are driveways designed to slope with the natural topography?			

<u>Key</u>(P): Check at preliminary review stage(F): Check at final review stage

			YES	NO
32.	Architectural Features : Use architectural features that are consistent with the chosen style to break up unacceptable massing.			
32.1	Do rooflines vary?			
32.2	Is a combination of vertical and horizontal elements used?			
32.3	Are doors and windows used to create patterns?			
32.4	Are stepbacks and projections used in the design to create interest?			
32.5	Are tall elements placed toward the center of the uphill portion of the building?			
33.	Neighborhood Compatibility : Design structure to fit with the existing neighborhood.			
33.1	Is the project compatible with neighboring houses in terms of proportion, size, bulk, height and setbacks?			
33.2	Does the project meet the Compatibility Guidelines in the Single Family Residence Design Guidelines?	(F)		
33.3	Does the project avoid crowding or overwhelming neighboring residences?			
33.4	Does the project meet the Good Neighbor Guidelines of the Single Family Residence Design Guidelines?	(F)		
33.5	Is a vertical canyon effect between houses minimized?			
34.	Decks and Courtyards : Locate decks and courtyards in areas compatible with the neighborhood.			
34.1	Does deck and courtyard placement consider topography and neighbors' privacy and noise levels?			
34.2	Are outdoor fireplaces and chimneys placed in a location that will not impact neighbors' views, privacy, noise or air quality?			
35.	Retaining Walls: Design retaining walls to blend into their surroundings.			
35.1	Are solid fences, landscape walls and retaining walls on hillsides minimized and kept under 50' long?			
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Key

(P): Check at preliminary review stage

(F): Check at final review stage

			YES	NO
35.2	Are fence and wall heights minimized, kept under 6' if stucco, and kept under 8' if the materials are aesthetically pleasing such as stone?	(F)		
35.3	Are long, continuous walls broken up by buttresses or pilasters and made of appropriate natural materials such as stone or adobe?	(F)		
35.4	Are horizontal lines and proportions used to reduce the perception of height and bulk?			
35.5	Does fence and wall design follow topography?			
35.6	Are earth tone colors used to blend with the surrounding natural colors of the hillsides and minimize visual effects?	(F)		
35.7	Is stone or other native, natural materials used?	(F)		
35.8	Are vegetation and landscaping integrated with fence and wall design?	(F)		
35.9	Are retaining walls located away from existing walls?			
35.10	Do retaining walls not have fill behind them?			
35.11	Are stepped or terraced retaining walls, with planting in between, acceptably used as an alternative to tall retaining walls?			
35.12	Is the minimum distance between two terraced retaining walls at least the average height of the two walls?			
35.13	For fill slope retaining wall systems, is the height of exposed retaining wall faces limited to 6 feet for an individual retaining wall and 12 feet for combined retaining wall faces?			
35.14	For cut slope retaining wall systems, is the height of exposed retaining wall faces limited to 8 feet for an individual retaining wall and 16 feet for combined retaining wall faces?			
GOOI	NEIGHBOR GUIDELINES			
36.	Privacy Guidelines : Locate and design structures, additions and architectural elements to create and protect privacy.			
36.1	Visual Distance			
	Are structures and additions located as to increase visual distance between buildings?			
<u>Key</u> (P): Che	eck at preliminary review stage			

			YES	NO
36.2	Upper-Story Decks and Balconies			
36.2.1	Has the applicant met with neighbors adjacent to proposed upper-story balconies and decks?			
36.2.2	Are second-story balconies and decks screened from neighboring property using screening elements such as enclosing walls, trellises or awnings?			
36.2.3	Are second-story balconies and decks located to avoid direct sight lines to neighbors' windows, open yard, patio, deck and/or loggia areas?			
36.2.4	Are upper-story balconies and decks over 20 square feet set back at least 15' from interior lot lines when possible?			
36.2.5	Are there no "free-standing" chimneys on upper-story decks or balconies?			
36.2.6	In hillside areas, has the topography been considered when placing decks or outdoor courtyards?			
36.3	Upper-Story Windows			
36.3.1	Are windows placed so as to avoid direct views into neighboring windows?			
36.3.2	Have large upper-story windows overlooking adjacent rear yards been avoided?			
36.3.3	Are translucent window glass or high windows used to allow illumination while protecting privacy?	(F)		
36.3.4	Are upper floors set back or side and rear setbacks increased to pull windows farther away from neighboring residences?			
37.	Landscaping Guidelines: Use landscaping to create and protect privacy.			
37.1	Have screening plants such as hedges been considered to create privacy between neighbors?	(P)		
37.2	Has vegetation that gives privacy to the project or its neighbors been kept?	(P)		
37.3	Is landscaping used to screen living areas?	(P)		
37.4	Are evergreen trees and shrubs used to provide year-round privacy?	(P)		
37.5	Has a landscape plan been provided when window placement creates direct views between neighbors in order to provide additional screening?	(P)		
Key (P): Che	ck at preliminary review stage			

⁽F): Check at final review stage

			YES	NO
37.6	Is landscaping consistent with the SFDB Guidelines, Part II?	(P)		
38.	Noise Guidelines: Minimize impacts of noise sources.			
38.1	Are active outdoor areas oriented away from neighbors?			
38.2	Are noise sources placed away from the sides of small lots and away from neighboring windows of frequently used rooms?	(F)		
38.3	Have walls that act as noise buffers been retained or added?			
38.4	Have the noise impacts of equipment that runs on a regular basis and that must be attached to a structure been minimized?	(F)		
39.	Lighting Guidelines : Provide sufficient light for site security and to complement the home design while not imposing on surrounding neighbors.			
39.1	Has all exterior lighting been designed, located and lamped in order to prevent or minimize overlighting, energy waste, glare, light trespass and skyglow?	(F)		
39.2	Is lighting installed only where needed?	(F)		
39.3	Are light sources kept near ground level and security lights kept close to what they are lighting?	(F)		
39.4	Are light sources placed such that they will minimize visibility from a distance?	(F)		
39.5	Where possible, are driveways and landscaping designed such that headlights will not shine onto neighboring properties? Is lighting along a driveway limited to the minimum lighting needed for safety?			
39.6	Is walkway lighting located to avoid hazards and placed at a low level (e.g., bollards or fixtures mounted on short posts)?	(F)		
39.7	Is light screening used to avoid illuminating a greater area than intended?	(F)		
39.8	Is landscape lighting in the form of "up-lighting" trees avoided or if present, limited and fixtures confine lighting to the feature being lit through use of shielding, lamps with low intensity beam spread and timers?	(F)		
39.9	Is lighting for outdoor living areas designed to minimize the visibility of the lighting from the surrounding neighborhood?			
<u>Key</u> (P): Ch	eck at preliminary review stage			

(P): Check at preliminary review stage(F): Check at final review stage

		YES	NO
39.10	Is there absence of lighting for athletic courts, roofs, awnings, lighting aimed at a property line only, or lighting that interferes with the safe operation of vehicles?		
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(P): Check at preliminary review stage